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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The minimum wage fixed under the Minimum Wages Act for sanitary workers is Rs. 25 per mensem, all inclusive.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN: May I know from the Hon. Minister what the basic salary is and what the allowance is under the Minimum Wages Act? Do the Government think that with this income it will be possible for a human being to live and will the Government be pleased to enhance the minimum wage?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: Minimum wages have been fixed by the Central Government.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: From the evasion of the Hon. Minister, it is obvious that the wage must be less than Rs. 20. May I ask him to have the wage fixed on a more socialistic scale?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: It may be considered under the new set-up.

Trunk-calls booked in Ramanathapuram Collectorate

* 2805 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total expenditure incurred on trunk-calls by the Collectorate of Ramanathapuram for the month of March 1955; and

(b) how many calls were booked during the said month for places outside India like Ceylon and to whom such calls were booked?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: (a) Rs. 103.

(b) No trunk-call has been booked during the said month for places outside India.

Tamil students in Anantapur Engineering College

* 2806 Q.—SRI D. KRISHNAMURTHI GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) how many students were selected from the Tamil districts and sent to Anantapur Engineering course (B.E.) in the year 1953;

(b) how many of them were given merit scholarships;

(c) whether they received that scholarship now also;

(d) if not, why; and

(e) what steps the Government have taken to continue those scholarships to them?

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THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) 34.

(*b*) Two.

(*c*) Yes, Sir.

(*d*) & (*e*) Does not arise.

Harijan uplift in Madurai

* 2807 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of lands assigned to Harijans from the Government lands and by acquisition in the year 1952 in Madurai district;

(*b*) how many wells were sunk for the benefit of Harijans in the district in the year 1952;

(*c*) other ameliorative steps taken in Madurai district towards Harijan uplift since the present Collector took charge; and

(*d*) the expenditure incurred from the budget allotment for Harijan Welfare towards establishment charges in the Madurai district and the actual amount of subsidy and aid given for the uplift of Harijans in the year 1952?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) *to* (*d*) The information is furnished in the paper [a] placed on the table of the House.

Baliapatam Police

* 2808 *Q.*—SRI M. CHADAYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the action taken by the Baliapatam Police in Malabar on the petition given by one Nanu (Harijan) of Kunnam Kayil near Cannanore regarding the carrying away by force of his wife Panchali (Thiyya) of Cheruthazham by a mob of Caste Hindus on 24th May 1955?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : A statement [b] is placed on the table of the House.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : From the statement placed on the table, it is apparent that the woman Panchali really went out of love. May I request the Government to see that in respect of Harijans such conditions are created as will be conducive to the course of true love to run smoother?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Anyhow we do not stand in the way of true love taking its own course.

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 420–421 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix II on pages 421–422 infra.